

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT A - CLEAN VERSION**

1 **1. (Once Amended)** A business method intended to facilitate flexible terms commodities trading  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing, upon a web site accessible upon the world wide web, a proposal format in which  
4 the type of auction can be specified in addition to the particular commodity, weight, price, and  
5 specific commodity category dependent quality characteristics desired by a prospective buyer in  
6 completion of a submission for initiating an open bid;

7 providing, upon a web site accessible upon the world wide web, a proposal format in which  
8 the type of auction can be specified in addition to the particular commodity, weight, price, and  
9 specific commodity category dependent quality characteristics offered by a prospective seller in  
10 completion of a submission for initiating an open offer;

11 posting upon said web site a listing for a specified lot of a particular commodity in accordance  
12 with a completed proposal submission detailing a plurality of terms including weight, price, quality  
13 characteristics, delivery and payment comprising an open offer of said specified lot when initiated by  
14 a prospective seller and comprising an open bid of said specified lot when initiated by a prospective  
15 buyer;

16 scheduling an auction of said specified lot by posting a plurality of schedule dates including  
17 but not restricted to commencement and conclusion dates between which responses to said listing will  
18 be received;

19 posting upon said web site, in association with said listing, counter bids received in response  
20 to an open offer and counter offers received in response to an open bid which vary in any of the terms  
21 included in said plurality of terms detailed in said listing;

22 posting upon said web site, in association with said listing, any offer indications by said  
23 prospective seller in response to posted counter bids and any bid indications by said prospective buyer  
24 in response to posted counter offers signifying a modification of at least one term in said listing;

25 indicating upon said web site, in association with said listing, the matching in all said terms  
26 between any offer and any bid both concerned with said specified lot.